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GUNTER: Trudeau's Sustainable Jobs Act no more than environmental evangelism

The “green” energy legislation introduced by the Trudeau Liberals on Thursday answers none of Alberta’s legitimate concerns.

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Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada Justin Trudeau speaks at a Liberal fundraiser, Monday. The federal Liberals introduced the Canadian Sustainable Jobs Act on Thursday. PHOTO BY ADRIAN WYLD /The Canadian Press

Whatever you call it — Just Transition, Clean Transition or the Sustainable Jobs Act — the “green” energy legislation introduced by the Trudeau Liberals on Thursday answers none of Alberta’s legitimate concerns. It ignores Premier Danielle Smith’s offer, made the night she was re-elected, to sit down with the feds for joint discussions on emission reductions, and how best to achieve them.

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Most importantly, the legislation is nothing more than environmental evangelism. It is not based on real-world economics. It has no connection to what is possible and practical.

Ten years from now, we could have hundreds of thousands fewer workers in high-paying energy-sector jobs and hundreds of billions in lower GDP, both in Alberta and in the country as a whole.

Here's just one simple example of the kind of extremist dogma that drives the Trudeau government: If Ottawa would allow development of Canada's full liquefied natural gas (LNG) potential, our exports of LNG to countries such as India, Indonesia, Korea, Japan and China would reduce those countries' reliance on coal, thereby reducing worldwide carbon emissions by over 180 million tonnes per year.

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Given that Canada released 670 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2021 (the last year for which figures are available), a cut of 180 million tonnes represents more than a one-quarter reduction. And given that the Trudeau government's stated goal is a 40 to 45 per cent reduction in emissions from 2005 levels (732 million tonnes), maximizing our sales of LNG to the rest of the world would put us with about 10 per cent of the upper end of that goal.

We'd be increasing exports, expanding our workforce in a highly skilled sector and helping reduce global emissions, all at the same time.

That's not how Trudeauites think, though. It's how every other oil-and-gas-producing Western nation calculates its carbon footprint, but not the zealots in our federal Liberal government.

Norway, for instance, sells its oil and gas to nations using dirtier fuels, then takes credit for the emissions saved in those other countries.

Not Canada.

The Trudeau government are such eco-purists they see no point in sitting down with Alberta to discuss a smart transition to lower emissions. Rather, since they will only count emissions saved within Canada (not emissions saved by Canada exporting our cleaner energy

around the world) they are convinced they have to shut down Alberta's oil and gas sector — **sacrifice** our province on the alter of their eco cult.

This is, without doubt, the most anti-Alberta bill introduced by a federal government since Justin Trudeau's father introduced the National Energy Program in 1980. Indeed, this is NEP 2.0.

In its Thursday coverage of the legislation, Reuters said the bill "builds on Canada's sustainable jobs plan that was released in February."

But there was no plan in February, just vague generalities and high-sounding promises of new jobs in the "green" economy. No details about how to get from where we are to where the Liberals hope we will end up.

For instance, Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson predicts 400,000 new "green" jobs to come from this forced transition. However, when Ontario's then-Liberal government tried something similar in the 2010s, the transition cost 200,000 good industrial jobs and ended up creating at most 12,000 eco jobs.

Mostly Thursday's bill isn't about a "green" transition, anyway. It was written solely by environmentalists. No input from job-creators or energy companies or oil-producing provinces, because in the end it isn't about energy or the environment or any real policy.

Bill C-50 is solely about what rhetoric plays well among Liberal voters in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and downtown Vancouver.

This is a government that doesn't care about the real consequences of its actions, only the electoral consequences. And if a wrecking ball to Alberta's economy keeps Trudeau in power, so be it.

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GW

Greg Wierr JUNE 19, 2023

Like his father, Trudeau is determined to weaken the west and have them as dependent vassal states in the same way that their fellow communists in the Soviet Union controlled Eastern Europe.

Even if Pierre Poilievre pulls a miracle and wins a majority (he will get brought down quickly if he wins a minority), the Laurentians will return to power soon enough and continue their attacks on our prosperity, in whichever form suits them.

The only solution is sovereignty. Try to convince everyone you know of this obvious truth.

REPLY

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PF

Paul Forseth

JUNE 16, 2023

I have read the Bill. It is full of pompous language as it sets the stage to assault jobs in the oil and gas industry. They try to cover their sins with money to entice workers to quit their profession and also offer paid retraining. Behind the smarm is very old style soviet thinking.

REPLY

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RM

Randy Marsh

JUNE 16, 2023

In July a 2nd carbon tax on the peasants is his answer.

REPLY

6

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EG

Ed Goselwitz

JUNE 16, 2023

Trudeau gets most of his support from women. Tell me again why we let them vote? Is it because he has nice socks and a pretty face?

REPLY

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